



ON THE WATER FRONT

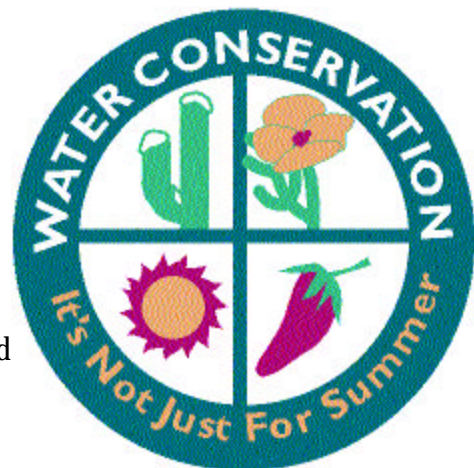


*Our Ambassador Neighborhoods Program will begin next month as we start delivering a blend of groundwater and recharged Colorado River water to an east side volunteer neighborhood. I want to make it clear to all our customers that **this is not an experiment. It is a demonstration.** In the past, Tucson Water made mistakes in delivering Colorado River water to some of its customers. Years of research, testing and planning have now been done to make sure we will not make those mistakes again. This program is critically important to the future of our community, for we cannot continue to exist solely on our groundwater. This demonstration will prove that we can successfully use recharged Colorado River water blended with groundwater. In the future, Tucson Water plans to bring this blended water to Tucson from our recharge facility in Avra Valley. Using Colorado River water in this way will allow us to shut down groundwater wells in the central part of Tucson which are threatening us with subsidence, loss of riparian areas, and permanent damage to our water table. Watch for more information about the Ambassador Neighborhoods Program as we get closer to the start of the project.*

David Modeer
Director, Tucson Water

Conservation. It's Not Just For Summer

It's never been more evident than this year that water conservation isn't just for summer. Our desert community has been much warmer and drier. At a press conference in early March, Tucson Water Director David Modeer appealed to Tucsonans to begin their water conservation efforts immediately and cut their water use by at least 10%. Even with 1.34 inches of rain on April 1 and a brief snow on Easter Sunday, we're still far below our annual rainfall.



Since the 1970s, Tucson Water had been asking the community to "Beat the Peak". Tucsonans have always responded and have saved billions of gallons of groundwater in the process.

This year, Tucson Water is not only asking our customers to conserve, we're also making sure the City of Tucson "walks the walk" of water conservation. Every City facility will be checked to make sure that it is water efficient, and every City employee will receive training to make sure they know how to be water-wise. We'll be working behind the scenes with our commercial and industrial customers as well, to help them reduce their water use and save this precious resource.

In the next issue of the Water Connection, watch for Tucson Water's 20-something duck "Pete the Beak" to unveil his water saving message for Summer 1999. In the meantime, continue to shorten your shower, watch for water waste, fix your faucets, and lose your leaks. And remember: Water Conservation. It's Not Just For Summer!

Ambassador Neighborhoods Program Begins June 1

Learning to Use Blended Water to Sustain Our Community

Tucson Water's neighborhood water demonstration program will begin June 1 when blended water is delivered to a volunteer neighborhood on Tucson's east side. The water will be approximately 60% groundwater and 40% recharged Colorado River water, produced at our facility in Avra Valley. This program has been developed through years of investigation and testing including customer water preference workshops, corrosion studies, water quality research, and communication with customers.

The blended water is created by placing Colorado River water in special basins in Avra Valley and allowing it to soak through the earth, be filtered by Mother Nature, and mix with groundwater. Eventually, we will put this water in the Tucson Water system (where it will blend further with groundwater). Then we can reduce our pumping of groundwater, which is creating serious concerns about subsidence and is damaging the ability of our water table to store water.

To date, we have had more than 400 customers contact us to volunteer for the Ambassador Neighborhoods Program. Regrettably, we can't include every volunteer in the program, but we will be bottling our blended water and providing free samples to customers. Watch for blended Tucson Water bottles soon at shopping malls, special events, and other locations. For more information about the Ambassador Neighborhoods Program, call Tucson Water at 791-4331.

Coliform Bacteria Testing Results

February 1999



To give you a more accurate measurement of the water quality in your neighborhood, the Tucson Water service area has been divided into 10 zones based on differences in water pressure and water quality. For a detailed description of the zone boundaries, call 791-4331.

One part per million (ppm) is the same as one second of time in 11.6 days.

Why should bacteria count matter to me?

Millions of people around the world suffer from waterborne diseases caused by bacteria. This is rare in the United States, where most water utilities disinfect the water and monitor and test for microorganisms. Tucson Water adds a sufficient level of chlorine to keep the groundwater we use safe for drinking, cooking and bathing.

What's a coliform, anyway?

Coliforms are bacteria which are not harmful themselves but may indicate the presence of other, potentially harmful bacteria.

Why should the chlorine level in my water matter to me?

Chlorine kills bacteria and germs that can grow in drinking water and prevents waterborne disease. Chlorine is the most widely used water disinfectant in North America. Tucson Water continually tests water at more than 240 locations to make sure chlorine levels stay within the target range.

Groundwater Quality Report

February 1999

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (ppm)	Average	52	42	48	36	33	33	29	43	49	42	40
	Range	36-82	37-47	19-90	27-55	23-45	24-40	21-37	37-53	38-93	38-43	19-93
Mineral Content (ppm)	Average	339	281	331	231	222	229	221	331	283	223	264
	Range	185-556	237-316	170-623	181-305	177-277	175-287	153-296	255-476	216-662	216-231	153-662
Hardness (ppm)	Average	147	126	152	99	97	105	108	165	106	79	118
	Range	64-268	101-145	53-315	67-122	72-142	81-136	76-142	104-289	72-333	216-231	53-333
pH (units)	Average	8.0	8.2	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.9	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.0
	Range	7.6-8.5	8.0-8.3	7.4-8.3	7.8-8.2	7.2-8.3	7.3-8.2	7.7-8.3	7.5-8.2	7.5-8.2	7.7-8.2	7.2-8.5

Temperature (deg F)	Average	69	69	69	72	70	69	68	72	75	74	71
	Range	63-76	60-78	62-80	64-83	63-82	58-77	57-78	64-80	63-84	65-82	57-84

What does all this mean to me?

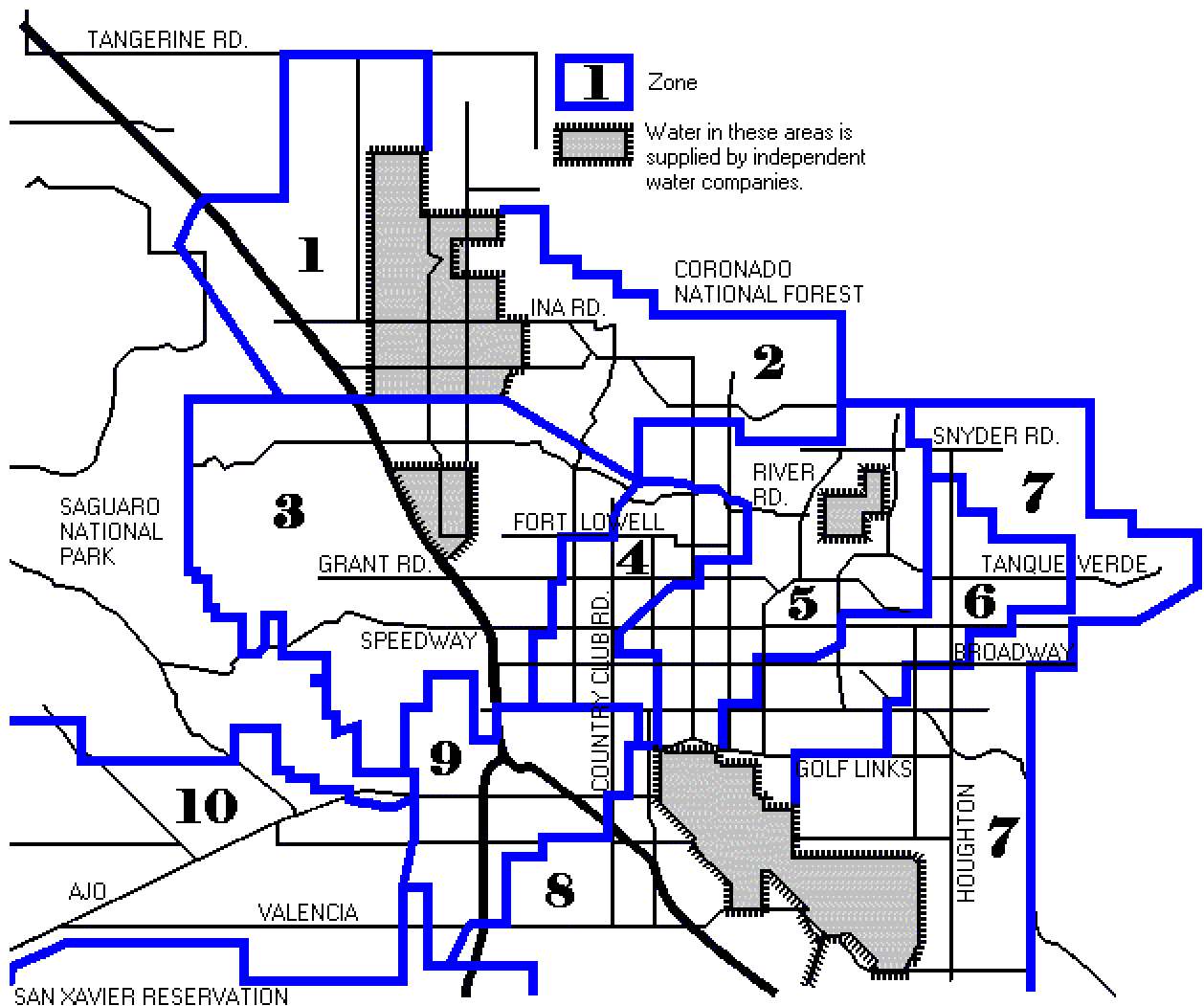
Sodium. The American Heart Association recommended standard for daily sodium intake is 3,000 milligrams. In general, the amount of sodium ingested from drinking water is a small part of a person's overall dietary intake. People on severely restricted sodium diets may want to consult their health care provider about sodium levels in their water.

Mineral content measures the amount of total dissolved solids, or **TDS**, in the water.

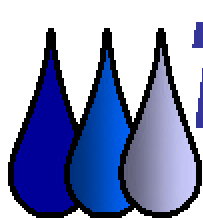
Mineral content can often affect the taste of the water. For example, many people can detect a salty taste when TDS is above 500 parts per million. The federal government has recommended an aesthetic standard of 500 ppm or less for mineral content in drinking water.

Hardness measures the ease with which soap can be lathered. The softer water is, the more easily it produces a soap lather. Water hardness also determines the degree of water spotting on dishes, plumbing fixtures and bath areas. In addition, most home water conditioners are set based on the hardness of the water entering the home. For the most part, Tucson's groundwater is considered moderately hard.

pH. Swimming pool chemistry, some fish aquariums and ponds, and certain water conditioner systems require you to control the pH of the water. pH is a measurement of acidity. Waters with a pH below 7.0 are considered acidic. The federal secondary, or aesthetic, standard for pH is 6.5 to 8.5.



The information shown on this map was collected at 245 sampling points for sodium, mineral content, hardness, pH and temperature.

 TUCSON WATER	<p><i>The Water Connection</i> is produced by Tucson Water. To receive a copy, or to receive this information in Spanish, call 791-4331 or mail your request to: Customer Information P.O. Box 27210 Tucson, AZ 85726-7210</p>	<p>City of Tucson TTY number: 791-2639</p> <p>Si usted desea este documento escrito en español, por favor, llame al 791-4331.</p>
---	--	--